

Christ Episcopal Church  
NW Cor. S. Adams & E. Zarragossa Sts.  
Pensacola  
Escambia County  
Florida

HABS No. FLA-146

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17-PENSA

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-146

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Location: Florida, Escambia County, Pensacola, NW Corner  
S. Adams and E. Zarragossa Streets

Present Owner: City of Pensacola Florida, Historical Museum

Present Occupant: City of Pensacola Florida, Historical Museum

Present Use: Museum

Brief Statement of Significance: This structure, erected in 1834, is the oldest church building in Pensacola. It was used as a hospital and barracks by Union forces during the War Between the States. It is a plain rectangular brick building with arched windows and a large brick belfrey, extensively remodelled in 1879.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Christ Episcopal Church. 1936 deeded to the City of Pensacola.
2. Date of erection: 1834
3. Notes on alterations and additions:
  - a. 1879: 20' addition on the west; organ loft removed, flat ceilings replaced by Gothic arches, plain windows replaced by stained glass ones.
  - b. 1902: the bell and stained glass windows removed to the new Christ Church building, and some openings bricked up.
4. Sources of information: Federal Writers' Project, Florida, A Guide to the Southernmost State (New York: Oxford University Press, 1939), Page 241.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Old Christ Church was erected as an Episcopal Church in 1834, when the heart of Pensacola was located around Seville Square. It is believed to be the oldest church building in Florida outside St. Augustine, making it the second oldest in the State.

The history of old Christ Church has been rich and varied, but unfortunately, not always a happy one. During the War Between the States, Union soldiers used it for a hospital and barracks. When the parish moved to its present location at Wright and Palafox Streets in 1902, it was attended for a time by negro parishoners. Then, in 1936, old Christ Church was deeded to the City of Pensacola for use as an historical museum or as a public library. For 20 years the Public Library made its home here, moving in 1957 to its present location at Spring and Gregory Streets.

In August of 1960, the Pensacola Historical Society, in cooperation with the City of Pensacola, opened here the Pensacola Historical Museum.

Prepared by Ula L. Manning  
May 1962

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: A small brick church with brick tower.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, extensively remodeled in 1879.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approx. 40' x 80' (not including appendages), faces east.
2. Foundation: Brick bearing wall.
3. Wall construction: Brick bearing wall, common bond.
4. Porches, stoops:
  - a. Front brick stoop, cement threshold.
  - b. Side porches at chancel, (north and south) have gable roofs, bracketed, Gothic Revival jigsaw ornament in open gables.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors:
    - (1.) East entrance, base of tower. Semi-circular, paneled head, two rectangular doors, five panels, top two glazed.
    - (2.) North and south entrances. Semi-circular heads,

two doors each, paneled with curved tops.

- b. Windows: Round arched openings, 12 over 4 light windows; Bottom sash pivots at meeting rail, wrought iron grills for pivoting windows. Pointed arched window, fixed, in west wall, divided by two mullions, Gothic tracery in arch. Two louvered openings with semi-circular heads on each side tower. Window above main door on east elevation tower: semi-circular fan, 6 lights; two double hung sash, 2 over 2 light. Arched openings under floor for vents.

6. Roof:

a. Shape and covering:

- (1.) Sanctuary: Gable roof, asphalt shingle roof. Roof truss (tie beam) members hand hewn, chamfered and turned.

b. Pyramidal roof on tower, surmounted by cross.

c. Cornice and eaves: Simple wood cornice.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor Plans: sanctuary a single-space vestibule under tower, wings to the left and right for sacristy and rest rooms. Tower accessible by modern disappearing stairway in vestibule.
- 2. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls, wood strip ceiling stained and varnished, roof trusses exposed.
- 3. Doorways and doors: Vestibule doorway into sanctuary, semi-circular arch, two panel head, two doors.
- 4. Hardware: Double-acting torsion spring hinges on vestibule-sanctuary doors. Cast iron washers on the exterior, for bolts through bottom chords of trusses and through tower floors.
- 5. Lighting: Modern electric
- 6. Heating: Modern space heaters with blowers.

D. Site: Faces east on northwest corner S. Adams and E. Zarragossa Streets, surrounded by trees, perimeter planting, asphalt walks.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves  
College of Architecture and Fine Arts  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida  
February 1962

Addendum to

HABS No. FL-146

Christ Episcopal Church

(Pensacola Historical Museum)

Seville Square Historic District

405 South Adams street

Pensacola

Escambia County

Florida

as recorded in 1962

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243